A Scripture Teſtimony AGAINST Perſecution for Religion; OR A PERSWASIVE TO Take off All Laws and Teſts that Force or Bind the Conſcience.

With Allowance.

HAMAN would have deſtroyed all the Seed of the *Jews*, becauſe their Religion and Worſhip was contrary to *Ahaſuerus* the King; but *Haman* was deſtroyed himſelf, who ſaid, *It was not for the King's profit that they ſhould Live*; but the King ſaw it was for his profit that they ſhould Live and have their Liberty.

And Chriſt rebuked ſuch as would have had Fire to come down from Heaven to deſtroy the Lives of thoſe that would not receive him, and he told them they did not know what Spirit they were of; and therefore, Have they known what Spirit they are of that have deſtroyed Mens Lives about Religion and Worſhip ſince the Apoſtles Days, which have not prayed for Fire to come

down from Heaven to deſtroy them, but have kindled Fires on Earth to deſtroy them? And have not ſuch been worſe, or more dark than they which Chriſt reproved, that would have had Fire to come down from Heaven to have conſumed them that would not receive him? and are they not under a greater Reproof?

And Chriſt whipped the Buyers and Sellers out of the Temple of God; but we do not read he ever whipped any in.

And Chriſt ſaid, *Let the Tares and the Wheat grow together until the Harveſt, which is the end of the World, leſt they pluck up the Wheat alſo*; and at the end of the World Chriſt will ſend forth his Angels, which ſhould be the Reapers; and are not Angels Spirits, and not Men?

And Chriſt bid *Peter* put up his Sword into his Sheath, and ſaid, *All that take the Sword ſhall periſh by the Sword*: And did ever *Peter* or any of Chriſts Apoſtles and Diſciples draw out the carnal Sword out of its Sheath, or make uſe of carnal Weapons after, to defend Chriſts Church, Religion, Worſhip or Faith? but on the contrary, the Apoſtles ſaid, *That the Weapons of their Warfare were not Carnal but Spiritual, and that they did not wreſtle with Fleſh and Blood*, &c.

Now hath not all Chriſtendom, that have defended and held up their Church, Faith and Worſhip, with carnal Weapons, and wreſtled with Fleſh and Blood; Have not their Weapons and Warfare been Carnal, and not Spiritual ſince the Apoſtles days, as the Apoſtles were, and the Church of Chriſt in the Primitive times?

And have not they that have uſed theſe Scriptures to Perſecute for Religion abuſed them? ſaying, *Let every Soul be ſubject to the higher Power, and obey every Ordinance of Man for the Lords ſake, for the puniſhment of Evil-Doers*,

Doers, &c. And the Apoſtle tells you what Evil-Doers they were, Man-ſlayers, Murderers of Fathers, Murderers of Mothers, and Perjured Perſons, *&c.* But the Apoſtle doth not ſay, Let every Soul be ſubject to the higher Powers, and to obey every Ordinance of Man, to puniſh People for Religion, Faith and Worſhip, and becauſe they will not be of their Church; for if the Apoſtle had meant ſo, why was not he ſubject to the *Jews* Religion, and to *Cæſars* the *Roman* Emperor, and *Dianah*'s? but the Apoſtle ſaith to the Church of Chriſt, they were not to touch nor taſte the Doctrines, Commandments and Ordinances of Men; and ſaid, Chriſt had aboliſhed the *Jews* Law of Ordinances and Commandments, and therefore the *Chriſtians* were not like to be ſubject to them, nor to the *Heathens*, when they were not to touch, taſte, nor handle them, who ſaid, *they periſhed with the uſing.*

And do not you read in the *Revelations* how it was the Beaſt in the Dragons Power that compelled all, both Small and Great, to Conform, and to Worſhip him and his Image, and to receive it, and ſo be of his Religion? but doth not *John* tell you the Beaſt was caſt into the Lake of Fire.

And doth not *John* tell you, that the Blood of the Prophets and Martyrs of *Jeſus* was found in the Myſtery of *Babylon*, Mother of Harlots, or Falſe Church; and how that ſhe was Drunk with the Blood of the Saints and Martyrs of *Jeſus*, and that the Inhabitants of the Earth were made Drunk with the Wine of her Fornication, which made them Mad, and Rage againſt the Saints and Martyrs of *Jeſus*; and what doth *John* tell you was the end of this Whore, or Falſe Church?

And do you not read in the *Ten Perſecutions*, what havock the *Heathen* Kings and Emperours made of the

Chriſtians in the Days of the *Ten Perſecutions*; and was it not becauſe they did not Joyn and Conform to them in their Religion and Worſhip?

And therefore, is it not time for all that Profeſs *Chriſtianity* to lay away their carnal Weapons, and put up their outward Swords into their Sheaths, as Chriſt commanded, that they have defended their Religion, Church and Worſhip with, and come to the ſpiritual Weapons and Warfare that the Apoſtles uſed, *&c*? and remember the Example of Old *Cain*, that Vagabond, and Wanderer from the true Faith, who killed Righteous *Abel*; and remember *Iſhmael* that Perſecutor of the Right Seed; and the Apoſtle ſaith, *He that is born of the Fleſh will Perſecute him that is born of the Spirit.* Even ſo it is now, for we never read that he that is born of the Spirit did Perſecute any. And *Chriſt Jeſus* ſaid, *Love Enemies, and love one another, and by this ye ſhall be known to be my Diſciples*; and therefore all that profeſs Chriſt ſhould obey his Command.

Nebuchadnezzar cauſed a Herauld to proclaim, *That whoſoever would not bow to his Image ſhould be caſt into the Fiery Furnace*; but the Lord changed his purpoſe, and ſaved his People: And did not the Lord after that make him to know that the moſt High Ruled in the Kingdoms of Men.

And therefore never let any Herauld cry more in *Chriſtendom*, under pain of Fire, Halter, Impriſonment and ſpoyling of the Goods of them that will not bow, and fall down and worſhip anothers Image of Religion, for it cannot be the true Religion, being Chriſt never gave any ſuch Command, who ſent his Diſciples to Preach the Goſpel to all Nations, but not with a penalty of Fire, Halter, Gallows, Priſon, and ſpoyling of the Goods

Goods of them that did not receive it nor them; but the Duſt of their Feet would be a ſufficient Witneſs againſt them in the Day of Judgment.

Were not *Pharaoh* and his Hoſte great Perſecutors and Deſtroyers of Children? and what became of him and his Hoſte? were they not deſtroyed in the Sea in the end by the Lords Power, who heard the Groans of his People in their Sufferings?

And was not *Herod* a great Perſecutor of the Lords People, who kill'd Young Children, and who would have killed Chriſt? but the Lord delivered him out of his hand; and therefore 'tis time to lay away all Perſecution about Religion, for that is not of God; for the Apoſtle ſaith, *He that hates his Brother is a Manſlayer, and hath not Eternal Life abiding in him; but he that dwelleth in Love, dwelleth in God, for God is Love.*

David was not to build the outward Temple, becauſe he had been a Man of Blood, in outward War, in the Old Covenant. Therefore how can you that have ſhed ſo much Blood, and ſpoyled ſo many People in their Perſons, Lives and Eſtates concerning Religion, Faith & Worſhip build up a Spiritual Houſe or Temple in the New Teſtament, who have been out of the peaceable Spirit?

Zion was not to be built up with Blood, in the Old Teſtament; therefore is that which is called *Chriſtendom*, in the New Teſtament, like to build up heavenly *Zion*, with Blood, Perſecution, Goals, and ſpoyling of Goods? when Chriſt ſaith plainly to them that would have had Mens Lives deſtroyed that did not receive him, *They did not know what Spirit they were of*; and how can you know what Spirit you are of, that have put to Death, and impriſoned to Death, and ruined ſo many in ſpoyling their Goods about matters of Faith, Church, Religion and Worſhip?

Worſhip? And how are we like to truſt our Bodies and Souls with them that do not know what Spirit they are of themſelves?

Chriſt Jeſus, who often ſaid to the People, and to the Multitude, *He that hath an Ear let him hear*; ſo that he did not Perſecute any that had not Ears to hear, and ſuch as ſtopt their Ears or cloſed their Eyes, and would not ſee with their Eyes, nor hear with their Ears, leſt they ſhould have been Converted. And *Chriſt* did not Priſon nor Perſecute, nor ſpoyl the Goods of any that did not hear and conform to his Religion, Way, Worſhip and Church; but often, as is ſaid before, *Chriſt* ſaid, *He that hath an Ear let him hear*, and left them to the Ear. And *John* in the *Revelations* ſaith to the *Seven Churches*, *He that hath an Ear let him hear what the Spirit ſaith to the Churches*. So he did not ſay, he that doth not hear what the Spirit ſaith to the Churches and Conform, ſhould be caſt into Priſon, and his Goods ſpoyled, and Baniſhed, *Chriſt* gave no ſuch Command, nor his Apoſtles; but his Command is, *That we ſhould Love one another, and Love Enemies; and he that dwells in Love dwells in God*; ſo then, he that dwells not in Love doth not dwell in God; & *he that hates his Brother is a Manſlayer*, and no Manſlayer hath Eternal Life abiding in him. And doth not *John* ſay in the *Revelations*, *It was the Beaſt in the Dragons Power that compelled all, both ſmall and great, to Worſhip him and his Image*? and do you not read, *that the Beaſt and the Dragon was caſt into the Lake of Fire, & all his Followers & Worſhipers*.

And therefore is it not time for all that profeſs Chriſt to Repent and Reform, and come to the Apoſtles ſpiritual Weapons and Armour, concerning the Faith, Church, Religion and Worſhip of God?

G. F.

THE END,

Advertiſement.

A Perſwaſive to Moderation to *Church Diſſenters*, in Prudence and Conſcience Humbly ſubmitted to the *King* and his *Great Councel*. *By one of the Humbleſt and moſt Dutifu' of his Diſſenting Subjects.*

Remarks upon a Pamphlet Stiled, *A Letter to a Diſſenter*, &c. In another Letter to the ſame Diſſenter.

Vox Cleri pro Rege: Or the Rights of the Imperial Soveraignty of the Crown of *England* Vindicated. In Reply to a late Pamphlet pretending to anſwer a Book, entituled the *Judgment and Doctrine of the Clergy of the Church of* England *concerning the King Prerogative in diſpencing with* Penal Laws. In a Letter to a Friend.

Advice to Freeholders and other Electors of Members to ſerve in Parliament. In Relation to the Penal Laws and Teſts. *In a Letter to a Friend in the Country.*

Reaſons for the Repeal of the Teſts. *In a Letter to a Friend in the Country.*

Old Popery as good as New. Or the Unreaſonableneſs of the *Church of England* in ſome of her Doctrines and Practices, and the Reaſonableneſs of *Liberty of Conſcience*. In a Letter from a Private Gentleman in the Country to his Friend a Clergy-Man in the City.

The Great and Popular Objection againſt the Repeal of the Penal Laws and Teſts, briefly ſtated and conſidered.

Pax Redux, Or the Chriſtian Reconciler. In Three Parts. Being a Project for Re-uniting all Chriſtians into one ſole Communion. Done out of French into Engliſh, by *Philip Ayres* Eſq.

Three Letters tending to demonſtrate how the Security of this Nation againſt all Future Perſecution for Religion, lys in the Aboliſhment of the preſent Penal Laws and Teſts, and in the Eſtabliſhment of a New Law for Univerſal Liberty of Conſcience.

A Rational Catechiſm: Or, An Inſtructive Conference between a Father and a Son. By the Author of the Three Letters

The Plea of the Harmleſs Oppreſſed againſt the Cruel Oppreſſor.

All Sold at the *Three Keys*, in *Nags-Head-Court*, in *Grace-Church-Street*, over-againſt the *Conduit*.